

Regional Needs Assessment

Watershed Forum Members

Cedar/Lake Washington Watershed Forum

Councilmember Malcolm Hickey, **City of Beaux Arts**
Councilmember Chuck Mosher, **City of Bellevue ***
Pat Hawkins, **City of Clyde Hill**
Mayor Erselle Eade, **City of Hunts Point**
Councilmember Brian Derdowski, **King County**
Councilmember Maggi Fimia, **King County**
Councilmember Larry Phillips, **King County ***
Councilmember Larry Springer, **City of Kirkland**
Bill Bennett, Lake Forest Park Environmental Quality Commission, **City of Lake Forest Park**
Councilmember Jean Garber, **City of Newcastle**
Mayor Jesse Tanner, **City of Renton**
Councilmember Margaret Pageler, **City of Seattle ***
Councilmember Rich Gustafson, **City of Shoreline**
Mayor Jeanne Berry, **City of Yarrow Point**

Former Forum Members:

Former Councilmember Linda Jackman, **City of Mercer Island**
Former Councilmember Stuart Liddle, **City of Newcastle**
Former Councilmember Larry Bingham, **City of Shoreline**
Julian Andersen, President of the Lake Forest Park Environmental Quality Commission, **City of Lake Forest Park**

Forum Coordinator:

John Lombard

Central Puget Sound Watershed Forum

Councilmember Connie King, **City of Shoreline ***
Councilmember. Margaret Pageler, **City of Seattle**
Councilmember Stephen Lamphear, **City of Burien**
Councilmember Joe Brennan, **City of SeaTac**
Mayor Scott Thomasson, **City of Des Moines ***
Councilmember Kathleen Quong-Vermiere, **City of Normandy Park ***
Phil Watkins, **City of Federal Way**
Councilmember Greg Nickels, **King County**

Forum Coordinator:

David Masters

Green/Duwamish Watershed Forum

Mayor Chuck Booth, **City of Auburn ***
Councilmember Rich Wagner, **City of Auburn**
Mayor Howard Botts, **City of Black Diamond**
Councilmember Rebecca Clark, **City of Covington**
Mayor George Rossman, **City of Enumclaw**
Councilmember Dwight Pelz, **King County**
Mayor Jim White, **City of Kent**
Mayor Laure Iddings, **City of Maple Valley**
Chantal Stevens, Environmental Programs Supervisor, **Muckleshoot Indian Tribe**
Jay Covington, Executive Assistant, **City of Renton**
Mayor Donald DeHan, **City of SeaTac**
Councilmember Margaret Pageler, **City of Seattle**
Mayor Wally Rants, **City of Tukwila ***
Councilmember Joe Duffe, **City of Tukwila**
Councilmember Steve Mullet, **City of Tukwila**
Councilmember Jim Hagerton, **City of Tukwila**

Former Forum Member:

Former Councilmember Christi Houser, **City of Kent ***

Forum Coordinator:

Dennis Canty

Sammamish Watershed Forum

Councilmember Georgia Zumdieck, **City of Bellevue ***
Councilmember Sandy Guinn, **City of Bothell**
Mayor Debbie Treen, **City of Bothell**
Mayor Ava Frisinger, **City of Issaquah**
Susan Schmoll, **King Conservation District** (*Ex Officio Member*)
Executive Ron Sims, **King County**
Councilmember Brian Derdowski, **King County**
Councilmember Maggi Fimia, **King County**
Councilmember Jane Hague, **King County**
Councilmember Rob McKenna, **King County**
Councilmember Louise Miller, **King County ***
Virginia Cross, **Muckleshoot Indian Tribe**
Mayor Rosemarie Ives, **City of Redmond ***
Councilmember Nancy McCormick, **City of Redmond**
Councilmember Richard Grubb, **City of Redmond**
Executive Bob Drewel (Peter Hahn - Representative Designee), **Snohomish County**
Councilmember Gary Nelson, **Snohomish County**
Councilmember Barbara Solberg, **City of Woodinville**

Former Forum Members:

Former Councilmember Lucy DeYoung, **City of Woodinville**
Former Mayor Rowan Hinds, **City of Issaquah**

Forum Coordinator:

Doug Osterman

Snoqualmie/Skykomish Watershed Forum

Councilmember Mark Cole, **City of Duvall**
Jonathon Rice, Citizen Representative, **City of Duvall**
Councilmember Brian Derdowski, **King County**
Councilmember Louise Miller, **King County**
Mayor Joan Simpson, **City of North Bend ***
Councilmember Virginia Sweetland, **City of North Bend**
Councilmember Ed Carlson, **City of North Bend**
Mayor Randy “Fuzzy” Fletcher, **City of Snoqualmie ***
Matt Stone, Citizen Representative, **City of Snoqualmie ***

Former Forum Members:

Former Mayor Jack Stein, **City of Carnation**
Former Councilmember Ron Chapin, **City of Carnation**
Former Councilmember Gary Fackrell, **City of Duvall**
Former Councilmember Cass Holdeman, **City of Duvall**
Former Councilmember Don Haviland, **City of North Bend**
Former Mayor Jeanne Hausen, **City of Snoqualmie**
Former Councilmember Tony Yanez, **City of Snoqualmie**

Forum Coordinator:

Megan Smith

**Regional Task Force Member*

Revised Regional Task Force (RTF) Funding Principles

On April 30, 1998 the Regional Task Force met to consider the amendments to the Regional Funding Principles which the Central Puget Sound Watershed Forum had suggested. The following text reflects the changes which were agreed to at that meeting

Regional Funding Principles

The Regional Task Force, composed of three representatives each from the Snoqualmie, Sammamish, Lake Washington/Cedar, Central Puget Sound and Green/Duwamish Forums, has discussed issues related to major river flooding, preserving and restoring fish habitat, and protecting and restoring the water quality in their watersheds. These issues are not solely the responsibility of local governments. Federal, state, and tribal governments and property owners are all stakeholders and have a responsibility to assist in funding the projects and programs needed to reduce flooding, protect the fisheries, and improve water quality. The Task Force recommends that the region's local governments work together through their watershed forums to lobby both the state and federal governments for funding assistance to match the local funding initiatives. The Task Force also recognizes that the region has an interest in these issues, and recommends that the region consider funding for the following:

- protection of key parcels of land for fish habitat along with restoration which is necessary to allow the stream habitat to function. Where possible, protection should be accomplished through conservation easements, acquisition of timber rights, public benefit rating system, and other mechanisms short of fee simple acquisition. The region should focus first on time-critical acquisitions where the opportunity to preserve the fish habitat will be lost if the land is not protected.
- habitat restoration which enhances ecologically significant fish runs.
- regionally-coordinated monitoring of fish runs and evaluation of habitat improvement projects to ensure that the region's fish habitat expenditures are being appropriately targeted.
- water quality and watershed restoration and protection support services such as coordination of monitoring (data collection, studies, evaluation) and public education programs. Regional support for such services should be conditioned by a requirement that local jurisdictions, both cities and the County, establish and enforce protection requirements.
- assistance in protecting the water quality of Lake Sammamish, which is considered a regional resource; these efforts may include acquisition/protection of key forest lands. This regional effort should be matched by funding and establishment of appropriate regulations and enforcement by the surrounding jurisdictions, and by funding and application of appropriate protection measures by developers and homeowners surrounding the lake.
- assistance in protecting the water quality and habitat in King County's near-shore waters of Puget Sound, which are considered a regional resource; these efforts may include such activities as acquisition/protection of key waterfront lands, stream and nearshore habitat improvement projects, shellfish protection measures, and estuary restoration projects.
- home buyouts in flood hazard areas where there is a high risk to public health and safety and where the property has other regional benefits such as valuable fish habitat or open space or providing a link to a trail system. Regional funds should only be used to purchase homes constructed before floodplain mapping or sensitive areas regulations were in place.

In addition, the Task Force also discussed the following issues and recommends that:

- the region will consider helping watersheds fund levee maintenance and improvements if the watershed raises a portion of the funds and if local jurisdictions in the watershed have regulations to ensure that further development will not need flood assistance or cause additional flooding.
- the region should decide on a case-by-case basis whether to provide technical assistance and/or funding for gravel removal, depending on both the cause of the problem and to whom the benefits will accrue.
- detention ponds should not be funded regionally. They are a watershed, sub-watershed or local expense, depending on the number of jurisdictions in the affected basin, just as are the other local drainage expenses which will continue to be the responsibility of the local governments.
- a task force comprised of staff from the local governments should be established to recommend minimum surface water, water quality and flood hazard reduction standards and minimum funding levels as the benchmark for the condition that the region will only invest in jurisdictions where there are adequate regulations and funding in place.

Nothing in the above Principles is meant to change the earlier Regional Needs Assessment for Surface Water Management agreements about the responsibilities of local governments (cities and the County as a local service provider). Local governments continue to have responsibility for drainage and conveyance services within their jurisdiction. Protection and restoration of streams which run primarily within one jurisdiction are the responsibility of that jurisdiction. Each jurisdiction is responsible for enacting and enforcing land use policies and regulations and adopting and funding local surface water programs to accomplish water quality and habitat protection and flood hazard reduction.

Forum Accomplishments

The following actions in support of Regional Watershed Management have been accomplished in cooperation with member jurisdictions.

Management Actions and Regional Funding



Cross Watershed Partnerships

Interjurisdictional Funding and Oversight of Lake Washington Studies

An Interlocal Agreement has been signed and funded by 17 jurisdictions (with two more expected) in Lake Washington/Sammamish Watershed. The studies will address how to raise the survival rate of juvenile sockeye in Lake Washington, which has fallen to about 1/3 of pre-1980 levels. When fishing is allowed, Lake Washington sockeye provide the most economically valuable recreational fishery in the state. Participating jurisdictions are contributing approximately \$1.4 million from 1997 to 1999. Contributions are leveraging approximately \$1 million of in-kind services from research agencies.

Sponsorship of Juvenile Passage Improvements at Ballard Locks

Under sponsorship of the Lake Washington/Cedar Watershed and Sammamish Watershed Forums and based on findings from the Lake Washington Studies, the US Army Corps of Engineers is planning approximately \$4 million of structural and operational changes at the Ballard Locks in 1999. These changes have been developed to improve passage for outmigrating juvenile salmon. Together, these changes are projected to increase survival of all salmonids in the Lake Washington/Sammamish system, including sockeye, chinook, coho and steelhead, by 20%.

Participation in Department of Ecology Water Quality Assessment

Recognizing the technical and interjurisdictional strengths of the watershed forums, DOE has provided local government a major role in its water quality assessment process for the Cedar/Green Water Quality Management Area (which includes the watersheds of the Puget Sound, Green/Duwamish, Lake Washington/Cedar and Sammamish forums). This process will prioritize the state's development of TMDLs and its monitoring, grants and technical assistance programs in the area.

Developing a Lake Washington General Investigation Study and Interjurisdictional Partnership

Working with the Corps of Engineers, Seattle Public Utilities, King County Wastewater Treatment Division, Washington Department of Ecology and others, the forum is developing a partnership to support a habitat study of the Lake Washington Ship Canal, which would complement a state-sponsored sediment clean-up study of Lake Union.

The Sammamish Forum is participating in the US Army Corps of Engineers study (216 Authority) of the Ship Canal and greater Lake Washington drainage basin restoration. Washington State, local counties and cities, and consultants are participating in this study.

These studies are a partnership between the Cedar/Lake Washington and Sammamish Watershed Forums.



Green River Watershed Forum

Ecosystem Restoration Study

In its first official action, the Green/Duwamish Watershed Forum initiated a cooperative project with the US Army Corps of Engineers to identify needs and priorities for fish and wildlife habitat throughout the 500-square mile watershed. The reconnaissance phase of the Ecosystem Restoration Study, conducted entirely at federal expense, was completed in early 1997 and identified 55 habitat acquisition and restoration projects to implement in the watershed. Following completion of the reconnaissance phase Forum members agreed to continue the study into the feasibility phase, in which at least 40 projects will undergo detailed design and environmental analysis. The local costs of the feasibility phase will be shared among most of the 14 Forum jurisdictions and King County through an interlocal agreement.

Early Action Habitat Projects

In early 1998 the Green/Duwamish Watershed Forum approved staff recommendations for a \$3.3 million package of habitat projects in the watershed to be initiated in 1998 and 1999. The 16 projects are distributed throughout the watershed and range in scale from revegetation of small sites to the acquisition of major tracts of riverfront land. The projects were originally identified through the Green/Duwamish Ecosystem Restoration Study.

Hamm Creek Restoration

Negotiations have been completed on habitat projects on the South Fork of Hamm Creek that will be funded through King County mitigation funds and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Construction of the projects, which are cosponsored by the IMAPAL Foundation, will begin in early 1998.

Participation in Department of Ecology Water Quality Assessment

Forum Staff have been participating in the DOE water quality assessment process for the Cedar/Green Water Quality Management Area five-year watershed management approach (which includes the watersheds of the Green/Duwamish, Puget Sound, Lake Washington/Cedar and Sammamish forums). This process will prioritize the state's development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and its monitoring, grants and technical assistance programs in the area.

Input to the Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team Work Plan

Watershed Forum staff have participated in discussions with PSWQAT representatives to identify current and future coordination needs between State and local activities which support water quality and habitat enhancement in the Green/Duwamish River and its estuary.



Snoqualmie Watershed Forum

Purchase of Repetitively Damaged Homes

Purchase of repetitively damaged homes is one of the key items on the Snoqualmie/Skykomish Watershed list. King County and the City of Snoqualmie have been aggressively seeking grants. Five homes were purchased by King County just outside Snoqualmie last year with more than \$600,000 in grant funds. Grant funding has been secured to purchase a sixth home in the same neighborhood. The county has applied for grant funds to purchase an additional four homes in the Snoqualmie Watershed. The City of Snoqualmie has been extremely successful at securing grants for home buyouts and elevations. The city recently purchased six repetitively damaged homes, elevated six homes, and has secured funds to elevate another 12 homes.

Improved Flood Warning

Improving access to flood warning and getting a better handle on the impacts on flooding in Snohomish County on water levels in the Duvall area are key concerns of the Watershed Forum. In 1996, the county and cities sponsored a hands-on flood workshop that focused on access to flood warning services, and funding sources for flood proofing. Staff from King and Snohomish County have made arrangements for better communication on the timing of flood crests for the Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers so that Duvall-area residents can get advanced warning of backwater flooding. The County has secured state grant funds and is computerizing much of its flood warning operations so it can more quickly access information on road closures and damaged facilities for callers to the flood warning center.

Repairs to Flood and Erosion Control Facilities

The countywide RNA list recommends a tripling of annual maintenance funds. King County has used existing local funds to leverage federal and state dollars and complete more than \$1 million in flood repairs in the last two years. However, these grant funds are available only after a Presidentially declared disaster. New regional funds for maintenance would make it possible to continue a high level of maintenance even in years without disaster funds.

Support to Agriculture and Forestry

Supporting viable agriculture and forestry was a key need identified in the Snoqualmie Watershed Vision. King County has hired a “Farmbudsman” on a pilot basis and foresters who can provide technical assistance to land owners in meeting environmental permit requirements and identifying alternative crops. The County has also established a cost-sharing program for water quality best management practices on agricultural lands. The Snoqualmie River Watershed RNA funding proposal includes additional funding of water quality best management practices and forestry technical assistance, and the continuation of a Farmbudsman if the 1998 pilot is successful.

A Better Understanding of Local Needs

The development of a watershed vision and project list has helped the county to better target its own resources and programs in the Snoqualmie Valley. In addition, watershed priorities have been incorporated into the Puget Sound Action Plan, which has translated into additional technical assistance to cities as they deal with water quality and flooding issues. Snoqualmie Watershed issues have also been brought to the table in discussions with the Snohomish Work Group.



Cedar/Lake Washington Watershed Forum

Prioritization of King Conservation District Assessment Revenues

The Forum has prioritized its 1998 allocation of \$315,000 in newly developed King Conservation District revenues. The Forum proposes \$200,000 for projects that should improve habitat for chinook runs on Cedar River and Kelsey Creek, a \$100,000 reserve for 1999 Ballard Locks passage improvements (see above), and \$15,000 for fish mapping and regulatory research that should be useful for the watershed's response to the proposed chinook listing.

Habitat Protection and Restoration

Acquisition and protection of the best habitat along the mainstem of the Cedar River and key tributaries has continued under King County's Cedar River Legacy program; the Cedar River Council has prioritized more than \$1 million for specific properties in 1997 and 1998. King County has implemented a second

groundwater-fed channel for habitat restoration, modeled on the successful Elliott project behind Renton's Maplewood Golf Course. Renton plans to build a third channel as mitigation for the Corps of Engineers flood control project. The City of Seattle may build more, and may also further habitat protection goals in the basin, through use of funds designated for downstream habitat in its Habitat Conservation Plan for the Cedar River Watershed. In addition, the Jobs for the Environment program has concentrated most of its habitat restoration projects in King County on the Cedar River basin.

Critical Support for Renton Flood Control

This summer, the Corps of Engineers plans to construct a \$8 million project to reduce severe flood risks in the artificial channel that connects the Cedar River to Lake Washington. This will protect the Renton Airport and the adjacent Boeing factory, which employs 16,000 people and produces \$14 billion of planes annually; it will also provide long-term protection for upstream passage of fish. The local cost-share is being split equally between Renton, Boeing and King County. The Forum assisted in the successful effort to secure federal funding; the Forum is also helping secure a \$950,000 contribution from the King County Current Expense Fund by placing a high priority on reimbursing this contribution with future regional funding.



Sammamish Watershed Forum

Implemented Projects and Programs

The Sammamish Watershed Forum has been successful in leveraging funds to begin implementing its list of over fifty regional projects and programs. In some cases, local budgets were reprioritized to match regional needs.

Issaquah Creek/Lake Sammamish Waterways Program: 1998 Pilot

The Forum developed an Issaquah Creek Waterways Corridor pilot project as a part of its watershed planning efforts. Watershedwide cooperation led to \$950,000 in forest land acquisitions in 1997, and the dedication of \$918,000 for additional purchases and restoration in 1999. Issaquah and King County Conservation Futures Tax revenue, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation grant program and the King County Capital Improvement Project program have made early project implementation possible. The Sammamish Forum has allocated \$190,000 of 1998 King Conservation District (KCD) funds to this project. Over 1,000 Sammamish Watershed educational posters have been distributed throughout the basin, workshops on forest conservation have been held on a continuing basis since early 1997 and over 10,000 trees will be planted in 1998 within the Issaquah Creek basin as part of this pilot project.

Paradise Valley Conservation Area: 1998 Pilot

The Sammamish Watershed Forum, Seattle-King County Land Conservancy and the Snohomish Land Trust have all adopted the Paradise Valley Conservation Area project in Snohomish County as a priority. This property of 1,100 acres is a critical piece of the Regionally Significant Resource Area of Upper Bear Creek; it contains old-growth forest and the headwaters to the most productive salmonid stream (of its size) in Western Washington. \$320,000 from Snohomish and King County Conservation Futures Tax revenues have been dedicated towards acquisitions in the conservation area in 1998.

Comprehensive Sammamish River Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Project: 1998 Pilot

The Sammamish Forum has focused on integrating efforts to restore the Sammamish River. In 1997, Eddie Bauer, the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary and the King County Urban Reforestation and Habitat Restoration grant program cooperated to restore 400 feet of river bank. Woodinville, Bothell, King County and Redmond have contributed a total of \$186,000 and dedicated staff time towards restoring over one mile of river bank in 1998. The restoration will occur through a river-wide volunteer event to plant native vegetation. The Sammamish Forum has also allocated \$96,000 of 1998 KCD funds towards this project.

Watershed Education and Grant Program: 1998 Pilot

Issaquah has been awarded a King County Water Quality Block Grant of \$14,000 to hire a coordinator to train and lead citizen volunteers for conducting, monitoring and maintaining stream and river restoration projects throughout the watershed. The Sammamish Forum has allocated \$10,000 of 1998 KCD funds towards this project. The additional funds will be used to expand the program to include more sites, citizens and volunteer opportunities for water quality and biological monitoring in the future.

Swamp Creek Wetland Acquisition

Staff members from the Swamp Creek basin and from the offices of King County Councilmember Maggi Fimmia and the King County Executive held a public meeting to present a Flood Emergency Management Act (FEMA) proposal for home buyouts and elevations in the basin. A formal FEMA proposal was developed and is being reviewed by the State Hazard Mitigation Program to buy properties that are chronically flooded and damaged. This FEMA grant has a potential of providing \$1 million for home buyouts along the Swamp Creek Wetland. The Sammamish Watershed Team has received \$147,000 in federal funding (from Housing and Urban Development) to purchase one home in the wetland this year.

Bear Creek Waterways Acquisitions

The Sammamish Forum has supported the Bear Creek Waterways Acquisitions program. In the Fall of 1997, the 35-acre Blueberry Farm property in Reach C of the Bear Creek Waterways program was purchased.

Farmlands Acquisition Program

The Sammamish Forum has successfully promoted the preservation of agricultural properties in the Sammamish River Valley. The King County Farmlands Preservation Program has dedicated \$300,000 towards acquiring farmland in the Agricultural Production District valley in 1998. Two unprotected agricultural properties in the valley will be purchased through Conservation Futures Tax revenue. Restoration of the properties will help to improve water quality and fish habitat in the Sammamish River.

Watershedwide Erosion Control Program

Sammamish Watershed Technical Staff are analyzing existing programs and standards for erosion control at construction sites in all jurisdictions across the watershed. The staff will develop recommendations for a coordinated and consistent Erosion Control Program for construction sites across all jurisdictions in the Sammamish Watershed. The Sammamish Watershed Forum has allocated \$50,000 of 1998 KCD funds towards this program. The recent Endangered Species Act listings highlight the importance of regulatory consistency.

Issaquah Salmon Hatchery Master Plan (Phase II) and Treatment Facility

The Issaquah Salmon Hatchery Master Plan has been completed through interjurisdictional efforts and the final feasibility report for installing a wastewater treatment facility at the hatchery has been released. The work is being coordinated with the Wastewater Treatment Division.

Collaboration Efforts



Green River Watershed Forum

Volunteer Restoration Partnerships

Over a dozen habitat restoration projects, including seven in partnership with watershed cities, have been completed with the help of hundreds of community volunteers. Collaborative projects have occurred on the mainstem of the Green/Duamish, and on Longfellow, Olson, Puget, and Riverton Creeks. Other partners in volunteer habitat projects have included the Boeing Corporation and numerous local community groups. In addition, over fifteen educational events and tours have been sponsored in the watershed during the past two years including a well attended series of public seminars on salmon, native plants, and water quality in the Fall of 1997.

Duwamish Corridor Business Habitat Restoration

Habitat restoration opportunities on business properties in the Duwamish River corridor are being actively developed in partnership with the Environmental Coalition of South Seattle. The first revegetation demonstration project was successfully completed with supportive comments from the property owner in April 1998 at the Duwamish Shipyard. A number of other Duwamish-area businesses have expressed an interest in habitat restoration on their sites and additional projects are expected to be planned for Summer or Fall of 1998.

Green-Duwamish Restoration 2000

A new campaign to restore natural vegetation to streams and wetlands watershed-wide was initiated in early 1998. Green-Duwamish Restoration 2000 Program is a collaborative effort of King County, watershed cities, the King Conservation District, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe Fisheries Department, Rainier Audubon, the Green-Duwamish Watershed Alliance, and other community groups to plant over 10,000 native trees throughout the watershed by the year 2000. The program focuses on linking dispersed stewardship events into a coordinated program that promotes volunteerism and motivates the public to get involved in restoring riparian areas on public and private land.

Consolidation of Watershed Forum with Green River Basin Program

The Green River Basin Program is an interjurisdictional program established in 1978 primarily to focus on flood hazard reduction issues. The program is funded by the Green River Flood Control Zone District, a special-purpose district that collects an ad valorem tax levy to support flood protection and stormwater management activities within its boundaries in the lower portion of the Green-Duwamish Watershed. The cities of Auburn, Kent, Renton and Tukwila and King County are current partners in the program. Following analysis by a staff task force at the request of the Forum membership, the activities of the watershed Forum were consolidated under the auspices of the existing Green River Basin Program. The consolidation of the two programs allows for operational efficiencies and also builds on the Green River Basin Program's history of successful interjurisdictional coordination.

Green-Duwamish Watershed Alliance Coordination

Forum staff have served as a liaison between the Forum and the Green/Duwamish Watershed Alliance, an organization that includes representatives from numerous grass roots non-profit and community groups throughout the watershed. Staff have kept the Alliance's Board regularly updated on Forum efforts and decisions, including the Regional Needs Assessment and Regional Task Force processes, and make sure they are informed about upcoming Forum meetings and business.

Vegetation Management on Levees

Forum staff are working with other state agencies and local jurisdictions to obtain a regional variance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' vegetation standards for levee maintenance. Under current nation-wide standards, riparian trees and

shrubs must be removed for many levees to remain eligible for federal assistance with repairs, making it difficult to proceed with habitat enhancement in some critical locations. The vegetation standards are highly important due to the large numbers of levees in the lower Green/Duwamish Watershed.



Snoqualmie Watershed Forum

Flood Hazard Mapping

Accurate flood hazard maps are essential for preventing new, at-risk development in hazardous areas. New floodplain maps have been completed in six areas of the Snoqualmie/Skykomish Watershed. The RNA funding package recommends funding to complete mapping in other high priority areas of the county, including the mainstem Snoqualmie River from Fall City to Duvall, Kimball Creek and in the North Bend area. The City of North Bend, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Corps of Engineers, and King County are cooperating on new flood hazard maps for the City of North Bend.

Habitat Restoration Projects

Three cooperative restoration projects were completed last year in Waterway 2000 target basins. Seven more are planned for this summer. These projects brought together funding and support from the World Conservation Corps, Stilli-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force, Jobs for the Environment Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, and Shoreline Improvement Fund. Project partners include Washington Trout, Jobs of the Environment Crews, Mid-Fork, Friends of the Trail, Student Conservation Association, Seattle Public Utilities and private landowners.

Establishment of Local Stormwater Programs and Updates of Development Regulations

One of the key tenants of the Regional Funding Principles is that local governments have local funding mechanisms in place for dealing with surface water issues before requesting regional funds. Significant progress is being made toward establishing local funding mechanisms. Duvall has had an active stormwater program for several years, the City of Snoqualmie recently set up a stormwater utility, and the City of North Bend has secured state grants for a stormwater plan and analysis needed to serve as the basis for new stormwater funding. The Town of Skykomish used grant funds to complete a drainage plan and is now seeking grant funding to deal with their most significant local problems. This spring, the cities of Snoqualmie and North Bend held public hearings on annexing to the King Conservation District.

Gravel Removal

Early on in watershed discussions, local jurisdictions expressed frustration with trying to tackle issues that affect multiple jurisdictions in the watershed, includ-

ing gravel removal for flood hazard reduction. A sub-group of the Watershed Forum met with citizens and permit agencies to delve into gravel removal issues, and agreed on a short list of sites where gravel removal would have the greatest potential for flood benefits. The county is now conducting feasibility studies at this list of sites that address the likelihood of flood benefits; impacts on local flooding, erosion, and fish habitat; and permit feasibility.

A Stronger Voice for the Snoqualmie Watershed

One of the original goals of the Watershed Forum was to secure long-term stable funding for high priority flood hazard reduction, water quality, and habitat needs. As a rural area, the tax base for new programs is quite limited. The Watershed Forum provided a place for local governments in the Snoqualmie Watershed to articulate the issues and projects that are most important to them. Elected officials from the forum were better able to represent these interests in discussions with elected officials from more urbanized areas. In turn, these electeds were able to bring back the views of others in the county of how surface water needs in the Snoqualmie/Skykomish fit into a “regional” context.

Sharing of Information on Grants and Coordination of Lobbying Efforts

One purpose of the watershed forum is to share information on grant funding sources and strategies and coordinate lobbying efforts. For example, the county and the City of Snoqualmie have shared information on successful flood hazard mitigation grants. King County has written letters of support for successful grant applications by the City of North Bend.



Cedar/Lake Washington Watershed Forum

Partnership with the Cedar River Council

The Forum has developed a partnership with the Cedar River Council, a citizen and interjurisdictional oversight body for the lower Cedar River, potentially delegating many policy decisions specific to the lower Cedar River to the council. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has described the Cedar River Council as perhaps the best example of its kind in the state.

Developing a Habitat Partnership with State Government

The Forum has worked with the Governor’s Office, the State Legislature, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission and numerous state agencies to develop the foundation for a fiscal partnership to protect and restore habitat in the watershed. There is now a widespread awareness among these agencies of the work of the watershed forums and the benefits that this can provide to the state.



Sammamish Watershed Forum

Adoption of the Lake Sammamish Water Quality Management Plan (1996) and Sensitive Lake Standards

The Sammamish Watershed Forum has supported and funded implementation of high priority actions identified in the 1996 Lake Sammamish Water Quality Management Plan. They endorsed the Sensitive Lake Standards that require on-site water quality facilities for new urban development. Metropolitan King County Council passed two pieces of legislation on January 26, 1998 that are important steps in the long term protection of water quality in Lake Sammamish as outlined in the 1996 Plan.

1. The Council adopted sensitive lake protection standards for all new development in the drainage basin. These standards require new developments that create 5000 sq ft or more of pollutant generating impervious surface to build on-site facilities to remove 50 percent of the total phosphorus in stormwater draining from the site.
2. The Council directed the County Executive to negotiate an interlocal agreement with the other responsible jurisdictions in the lake drainage basin to implement the 1996 Lake Sammamish Management Plan using the adaptive management strategy outlined in the Plan.

The 1996 Plan includes, in addition to the sensitive lake protection standards and a range of phosphorus control management options including forest conservation, improved erosion control, enhanced maintenance of stormwater facilities, capital projects and an extensive program of best management practices for home and businesses in the drainage basin. Implementation of the Plan will protect the public benefits and ecological health of the lake which depend upon good water quality. The Sammamish Watershed Forum endorsed the Plan for the Sammamish Watershed as part of its 20 year vision. The Forum reviews implementation and funding for the Plan annually as part of the Plan's Adaptive Management Strategy.

Timeline of Legislative Actions for the Regional Needs Assessment (RNA)



October, 1993 – Motion 9164: RNA begins:

The Surface Water Management Division (now Water and Land Resource Division, WLR) is directed to carry out the RNA Project in cooperation with the City of Seattle, the suburban cities [and Metro, now part of King County]. The goal of the RNA Project is to review stormwater management services and related natural resources and human needs pertaining to surface waters across King County; and to propose potential changes in services, as well as unmet needs and opportunities for coordinated or enhanced services.



July, 1995 – RNA Report and Recommendations:

Fish habitat, water quality and major flooding should be managed by watershed at the regional level: the RNA Project recommends the creation of inter-jurisdictional watershed forums, and the development of regional approaches and new regional funding to provide flood hazard reduction, preserve water quality and enhance fish habitat in King County.



October, 1995 – Motion 9681:

Watershed Forums created: the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) directs King County to create four watershed forums, (the fifth, Central Puget Sound is created in 1997) to develop work plans and funding options, and to determine if the forums should continue.



1996, 1997 – Watershed Visions Defined:

Forums define visions, regional watershed projects and programs, regional funding needs and principles: The four forums develop visions, a regional project list including capital projects, acquisitions and programs to address regional needs for fish habitat, water quality and flood hazard reduction, regional funding options and regional funding principles. The Central Puget Sound Forum and other forums amend the regional funding principles in April, 1998. The forums are recognized as a successful regional model for inter-jurisdictional collaboration.



November, 1997 – Motion 10353:

Regional funding options and development of long term strategy: the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) directs the County Executive to recommend a long term funding strategy for implementation of regional watershed projects and programs pertaining to fish habitat, water quality and flood hazard reduction. All projects and programs were identified by the forums in keeping with Regional Funding Principles. The motion directs the Executive to consider, as part of his funding strategy, development of a regional stormwater fee, wastewater revenues and an increase in the Conservation District assessment.

Attachment E

Technical Reports Available Upon Request

- **RNA Projects & Programs List**

(Including Maintenance and Operations Costs)

- **Watershed Visions**

- **Endangered Species Act 101 Papers:**

The Endangered Species Act and HCP's: A Summary

Ecology of Pacific Salmon and Chinook; the Status of the Puget Sound Stocks

- **Regional Needs Assessment Atlas**

<http://splash.metrokc.gov/wlr/basins/rnaatlas.htm>

Please call (206) 296-8324 for any of the documents listed above.